

December 20, 2007

West Kootenay Women's Association
420 Mill Street
Nelson, B C V1L 4R9

To the Coordinating Collective of the West Kootenay Women's Association:

I am pleased to offer my support for your program "Gender, Trades and Technology – A Composite Approach," being submitted for funding to the Office of Status of Women Canada.

As we seek to find ways to address the skill shortage issues facing the region and province, we especially welcome efforts that will increase the participation of women in the trades as they remain a virtually untapped resource for employers. We at Selkirk College are also looking at how we might increase the participation of women in trades and apprenticeship and are in discussions to investigate the feasibility of bringing the Women Building Futures program to the Kootenays.

The "Gender, Trades and Technology" program will complement the Skilled Trades Exploratory Program (STEP) currently offered at Selkirk College by providing skills and information that will support the participants transitions into the trades as well as assistance connecting to employers once initial skills training is completed.

We are able to provide an in-kind contribution of one classroom and one office with computer access and telephone for the period of May 23 – August 22, 2008 as well as the use of a shop facility for nine days. The value of this contribution is \$8,500.00.

We wish you success with your funding proposal and look forward to working with you on this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Kate Tognotti,
Dean, School of Industry and Trades Training

/hm